



LANDS AND FORESTS

TECHNICAL NOTE



DEER REPRODUCTION REPORT, NOVA SCOTIA 1988

Art Patton

Reproductive tracts of 146 does killed by various causes between February 1 and June 15 were examined by Lands and Forests staff. Their findings, recorded on Wildlife Investigation Reports, provide the information for this report.

The presence of 177 fetuses in the tracts examined gives an overall reproductive rate of 121 fetuses per 100 all-age does. In 1987 the figure was 113.

It is interesting that among does approaching their first birthday an average of 22 fetuses per 100 does were reported this year, compared to only 4 last year. Does which survived as fawns last year and appear as yearlings this year were apparently set back by the 1986-87 winter. As noted above, their reproductive rate was low in 1987.

As yearlings in 1988 they still show a low reproductive rate (107 fetuses per 100 does) compared to 1987 yearlings which carried 118 fetuses per 100 does.

Table 1 indicates the number and sex of fetuses and average reproductive rate of does across the province by age class of the doe. Tables 2, 3 and 4 show the same data by the region, namely, Western, Eastern, and Cape Breton Island, respectively. (Figure 1)

Although there were over 2.5 times as many does checked in the Eastern region as in the other two, the overall reproductive rates were amazingly similar across the province. This suggests that the herd/range balance may be comparable across the province.

Table 5 compares the overall reproductive rate and primary breeder rates in the province over the last 9 years. It shows that overall reproduction was up in 1988 compared to 1987, but that among prime breeders it was slightly lower this year. We do not know why. The overall effect should be a marginally higher proportion of fawns in this year's population.

Art Patton
*Manager, Wildlife Resources
(Big Game)*

PO Box 516
Kentville, Nova Scotia

Table 1. *Fetuses per doe by age class of doe, Nova Scotia 1988.*

Age of Doe	Number of Does	Male Fetuses	Female Fetuses	Unknown Fetuses	Total Fetuses	Fetuses per Doe
0-1 year	23	3	2	0	5	0.22
1-2 years	30	17	12	3	32	1.07
2-3 years	43	35	28	5	68	1.58
3-8 years	41	34	13	10	57	1.39
8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unk. adults	1	1	0	0	1	1.00
Unknown	8	8	4	2	14	1.75
Total	146	98	59	20	177	1.21

Table 2. *Fetuses per doe by age class of doe, Western Nova Scotia 1988.*

Age of Doe	Number of Does	Male Fetuses	Female Fetuses	Unknown Fetuses	Total Fetuses	Fetuses per Doe
0-1 year	7	0	1	0	1	0.14
1-2 years	13	9	5	2	16	1.23
2-3 years	5	6	3	1	10	2.00
3-8 years	2	2	0	2	4	2.00
8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unk. adults	1	1	0	0	1	1.00
Unknown	4	4	2	0	6	1.50
Total	32	22	11	5	38	1.19

Table 3. *Fetuses per doe by age class of doe, Eastern Nova Scotia 1988.*

Age of Doe	Number of Does	Male Fetuses	Female Fetuses	Unknown Fetuses	Total Fetuses	Fetuses per Doe
0-1 year	11	2	0	0	2	0.18
1-2 years	10	5	4	0	9	0.90
2-3 years	28	24	21	2	47	1.68
3-8 years	29	20	10	6	36	1.24
8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unk. adults	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unknown	3	2	2	2	6	2.00
Total	81	53	37	10	100	1.23

Table 4. *Fetuses per doe by age class of doe, Cape Breton Island 1988.*

Age of Doe	Number of Does	Male Fetuses	Female Fetuses	Unknown Fetuses	Total Fetuses	Fetuses per Doe
0-1 year	5	1	1	0	2	0.40
1-2 years	7	3	3	1	7	1.00
2-3 years	10	5	4	2	11	1.10
3-8 years	10	12	3	2	17	1.70
8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unk. adults	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Unknown	1	2	0	0	2	2.00
Total	33	23	11	5	39	1.18

Table 5. *Fetuses per all-age does and does older than yearlings, Nova Scotia 1980 - 1988.*

Year	Fetuses / 100 Does	
	All Age Does	Does 2-8 Years Old
1980	104	146
1981	109	159
1982	123	171
1983	111	152
1984	108	140
1985	118	150
1986	116	151
1987	113	154
1988	121	148

Figure 1. *Regions of Nova Scotia used to show reproductive rates of does across the province.*

